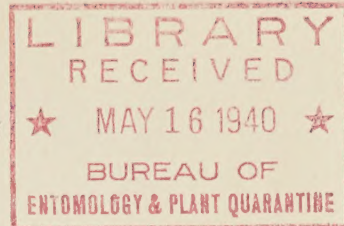


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INFORMATION ON PROCEDURE AND PLAN OF OPERATION
FOR COOPERATIVE GRASSHOPPER CONTROL FOR THE
CROP YEAR 1940



Introduction

As a result of natural control of grasshoppers throughout many areas of infestation during 1939, supplemented by effective poisoning operations carried on cooperatively by the United States Department of Agriculture and the several affected States during the past several years, the expected grasshopper outbreaks for 1940, based on very thorough summer and fall surveys, are much less threatening than during the past two years, but severe infestations are expected to occur in several extensive areas.

Objectives

The object of the 1940 control operations will be (1) the protection of crops against grasshopper damage in areas where general epidemic outbreaks occur and (2) the control of migratory species under conditions hereinafter set forth.

Funds and Materials

Other than materials and equipment on hand, there are no Federal funds available at this time for control operations in 1940, except that there remains an unexpended balance of available Federal funds from last year sufficient to temporarily maintain a headquarters office and a limited clerical, supervisory and administrative staff for work preliminary to 1940 control operations. The extent to which cooperative control operations can be conducted in 1940 is dependent on Congressional appropriations of Federal funds and on the extent to which States, local, and other agencies can participate.

There is a carry-over of bait materials approximately equivalent to that of a year ago. This material is being stored at local points and concentration warehouses, and will be available for redistribution in keeping with needs. If adequate additional Federal funds are made available, this will be supplemented by such additional material as is necessary for carrying on adequate control operations.

Legal Authority

Except as provided under general statutes concerned with the protection of Federally-owned property assigned to it, the United States Department of Agriculture has no authority to carry on operations to control grasshoppers otherwise than in cooperation with authorities of States concerned. To carry out operations for control on lands under the jurisdiction of other Federal agencies, and those owned or controlled by State or private organizations or individuals, cooperation is essential. Authority to control pests on State and privately-owned lands is vested in duly constituted State agencies in the several States. In order that the Department may have appropriate authority to actively participate in field operations directed toward the control of migratory grasshoppers on State and privately-owned lands, it is necessary that it cooperate with the State agencies authorized to conduct pest control operations and that its field employees be deputized to act as their agents. It is proposed, therefore, that the State regulatory pest control officials actively participate in future cooperative operations directed toward grasshopper control.

Memoranda of Understanding

In view of the large area in which grasshoppers are expected to

occur in outbreak numbers, the many different species involved, the differences in State setups of personnel and organization, geographic and climatic variations, and other variable factors, it is impracticable to outline in a single document a detailed plan of operation which will adequately fit conditions in the various States. It is therefore proposed that, subsequent to a general conference at which will be outlined fundamental policies, Bureau representatives will meet in each State having an important grasshopper problem with the Commissioner or Director of Agriculture, the Extension Director, and representatives of such other agricultural and conservation agencies as may be concerned, as well as the State pest control officials and entomologists associated with the various State institutions for the purpose of formulating and preparing a memorandum of understanding for that State, which memorandum will embody details as to scope of work, participation by the various agencies, and personnel, both Federal and State, to be assigned to the project, and arrange for active participation by the pest control officials, and for the technical and advisory assistance, as well as for active participation in control operation, to the extent possible, by such entomologists of various State institutions.

Policy-Making Agencies

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine will be responsible for the administration of funds specifically appropriated or allotted to the United States Department of Agriculture for grasshopper control, and will have administrative jurisdiction over all of its employees assigned to grasshopper control operations.

In the event of Bureau participation in the control of migratorial species, the Bureau will be responsible for the planning, directing, and carrying out of such control operations in accordance with memoranda of understanding with the cooperating State agencies, and such operations will be in cooperation with the pest control officials of the respective State and under State authority.

Since the power to delegate State authority for actual Federal participation in migratory control, and in enforcing control operations, is usually vested in either the Director or Commissioner of Agriculture or an agency working under or directly in collaboration with his department, and because of the vital, essential, and extensive operations of the Extension Service through its county agents, under the direction of the State extension office in the carrying out of a crop protection program, it is deemed of especial importance that, in their capacity as administrative heads of the two State departments most directly and vitally concerned in the grasshopper control work, the Commissioner or Director of Agriculture and the Director of the Extension Service should actively participate with Bureau representatives in planning and directing operations throughout the season.

BUREAU COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

In view of the magnitude of the grasshopper control problem, it is deemed necessary and advisable that, to the fullest extent possible, the various State agricultural agencies should cooperate with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in this work.

State Department of Agriculture

Any Bureau participation in the actual field operations to control species having strong migratorial tendencies will be restricted to major infestations occurring on Federally-owned lands, except that in order to protect the efforts of participating farmers and to avoid heavy build-ups and ultimate spread through migrations, the Bureau may participate in the control of heavy infestations of these species occurring on large areas of abandoned, idle, range and waste lands adjacent to farm lands, and representing problems beyond the control of local farmers, but only on the condition of a memorandum of understanding with the cooperating State agencies providing for necessary State cooperation and the assurance that local farmers and individuals will put forth maximum efforts to control such migratory species on their own properties and that the local pest control officials are vested with legal authority, and will exercise such authority, in requiring control operations by property-owners when they will not otherwise participate.

State Extension Service

The crop protection program involving the furnishing of Federally-purchased bait materials to local communities and the local utilization of such bait by individual farmers or collective groups of farmers represents an important and major function in any grasshopper control program. The local utilization of bait material by farmers can be directed to the best advantage by the Extension Service through its various county agents, except in a few instances where State pest control agencies maintain an adequate pest control staff. Bureau personnel to the extent needed and available will be assigned to assist in the crop protection program in

accordance with the provisions of a memorandum of understanding with the State. An important phase of the grasshopper crop protection program is that of educational work conducted by the Extension Service or pest control officials with farmers. The Bureau will undertake to cooperate with these agencies to the fullest extent possible and desired by assigning trained Federal agents to assist in educational and organizational work.

Other Federal Agencies

The Bureau will make contacts and recommendations and give technical advice to all participating agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture, and will undertake to cooperate with any other agency of the Federal Government participating in the program.

Methods of Control

No major changes in methods of control as carried out in previous years are contemplated, and the crop protection program will be conducted similarly to previous years in areas threatened by outbreaks of above-normal populations of grasshoppers.

Bait Mixing

The question of the operation of local mixing stations and the so-called "sack" charges for mixed bait at many of these stations needs corrective consideration.

The local community mixing of bait, while possessing many advantages, also has a number of outstanding disadvantages. It involves expensive transportation and the frequent reshipment of materials in order to assure supplies in the right proportion at the large number of local mixing mills. Methods of mixing during the past several seasons, and the type of personnel in charge of the mixing mills have too frequently resulted in inefficient

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mixing, leading to either waste of material or to the more serious feature of ineffective results because of inadequate sodium arsenite. It has, in many instances, also resulted in charges to farmers for mixing which, in some instances, are exorbitant, unreasonable, and far in excess of the cost of mixing, occasionally amounting to more than the cost of the purchase and delivery of materials.

In order to correct these objections, the Bureau will undertake, in areas where large quantities of bait are required and where State or local funds are not available for construction and operation of mixing plants, to establish appropriate mixing stations by constructing new plants when necessary at centralized points or by taking over the operation of existing plants and to mix bait and deliver it to appropriate distribution points. These functions will be restricted to areas predetermined by representatives of the Bureau and the cooperating State agencies.

In the event it is found necessary to collect a sack or mixing charge during 1940, the matter of amounts and purposes for charges, manner of collecting, handling, and disbursing must be reviewed and approved by policy-fixing State officials and administrative agents of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and such charges must be on an equitable basis. Funds so collected must not be in excess of, or used for any purpose other than those for which collected.

/s/ Lee A. Strong
Chief, Bureau of Entomology and
Plant Quarantine

Approved:

/s/ Henry A. Wallace
Secretary of Agriculture

January 5, 1940
(Date)

